(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to put up the bridge; and

(c) if not, when the Government propose to put up the bridge?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—" (a) The bridge at Halkal which was constructed in 1937 is in good condition.

" (b) & (c) Does not arise."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY:—" Sir, by a mistake, instead of asking the question about Jatkal bridge, I had asked about Halkal bridge. Are the Government aware of the collapse of the Jatkal bridge, and if so, what steps the Government have taken to construct the same?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—" Sir, it is true that the Jatkal bridge collapsed in the year 1937. The cost of reconstructing the bridge is estimated to be Rs. 1·2 lakhs, and this work is included in the recast five-year programme of Post-war Road Development."

[Questions No. 250-H postponed and answered on 4th April 1953.]

Power generation from Urakkuzhi Waterfall, Kurumbranad taluk.

* 250-I Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any report, private or otherwise, about the feasibility of generating electricity from Urakkuzhi Waterfall in Kayanna amsam, Kurumbranad taluk, North Malabar; and

(b) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government to harness the above waterfall for generating power?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—" (a) Yes, when the matter was already under scrutiny by the Electricity department.

" (b) The feasibility of harnessing this fall for power generation will be investigated in the order of priority of investigation of such schemes generally as a continuing process."

MR. SPEAKER:—" Questions are over."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—PRIVILEGE MOTION *RE* ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT BOARDS.

MR. SPEAKER:—" Mr. Krishna Rao has given notice of a motion which he considers is a privilege motion—I shall put it in that way. The motion reads as follows:—

'I beg to give notice of the following matter to be referred to the Privileges Committee of the Assembly:—

" The Madras Legislative Assembly at one of its previous sessions, decided that the term of the District Boards in the State should be extended to

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the end of June 1953. The intention of the Assembly in so passing the resolution was that the new elections to the District Boards in the State should be completed before the end of June 1953.

"While such was the clear and definite resolution of the Assembly, the Government made an announcement in December 1952 to the effect that elections to the District Boards which as per the directive of the Assembly should be held before June 1953, will not be so held. This announcement of the Government and its subsequent policy in this matter amounted to and constitutes a deliberate and wilful flouting o the decision and directive of the Assembly, seriously affecting the authority, dignity and prestige of the Madras Legislative Assembly.

"Ever since December 1952, the Government has been actively working to sabotage the resolution of the previous session of the Assembly in this matter and render it into a mere scrap of paper.

"Further attempts were made to bring about the appointment of Special Officers to District Boards—a step repugnant to the directives of the Assembly and of the principles and practice of democracy, which we as Members of the Assembly under the Constitution are required to uphold.

"I now find a notice of the motion to be moved to get what in effect seeks to approve the illegal and unconstitutional attempt of the Government to flout the decisions of the Assembly alluded to above, and gloss over the serious disregard and violation of the resolution of the Assembly, that the Government policy from December 1952 to this day constitutes.

"Since the matter involves the deliberate and wilful attempts of the Government to flout and set at naught the decision of the Assembly and present a *fait accompli*, I hereby give notice that—

(1) the matter of the Government trying to flout and sabotage the previous resolution of the Assembly about Elections to District Boards,

(2) the matter of the Government bringing before the Assembly a *fait accompli* tending to discredit and disregard the decisions of the Assembly,

(3) the conduct of the Council of Ministers subversive of law, and of the will of the Assembly,

be referred to the Committee of Privileges of the Assembly.""

"The resolution that has been given notice of is a non-official resolution, not an official resolution. Has Mr. Krishna Rao anything to say, before I give my ruling?"

* SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—"I want to say a few words, Sir, I should consider that the decisions of this Assembly are paramount, and there is no authority either to flout them or create conditions which would help to sabotage or create a *fait accompli* which would make a negation of the previous resolution of the Assembly imperative. What I say is : whether it is a non-official resolution or an official resolution, there are certain rights so far as the Members of the Assembly are concerned. The Ministers may be Ministers outside, but here, we all of us have got equal rights, and our resolutions have the same value and have the same authority as the resolutions of Government or of any Minister thereof. Therefore I submit that our resolution must be given effect to. If there is any machinery by which our resolutions here can be enforced and any violation of our resolutions can be punished, I submit the privileges committee is such machinery, and it is that committee which can see to it that our resolutions are enforced and that any violation of our resolutions and deliberate sabotaging of our resolutions is punished."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" According to the original decision, the elections should take place only in June 1953—that is what the hon. Member says."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" My point is that the Government have already taken steps, from December 1952 onwards, to work against this resolution."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member had many opportunities during the recent Budget discussions to ventilate this grievance. I may tell the hon. Member and the House that this is not a Privilege Motion at all."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" I would like to submit that it is a Privilege Motion, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" All right, let the Hon. Leader of the Opposition explain the position."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Sir, the House has already accepted a resolution which means that the Minister for Local Administration would have to put that resolution into action. We have already come to know from the Governor's speech and also through a resolution that has been given notice of and that is coming up before this House, that the Government are not going to conduct the elections to district boards, that if the resolution to be brought before the House is passed, Special Officers will be appointed, and there will be no elections for some time to come."

MR. SPEAKER :—" If the hon. Member thinks that the Government have flouted the resolution of the House, then let him bring forward a regular censure motion. There is great difference between a censure motion for something not done and a Privilege Motion."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" The privilege of the House is that all its decisions should be put into action. This privilege motion given notice of by my Friend simply says that the previous resolution of the House has not been put into action. And simply because it has not been put into action, it does not say that the Government should be removed. It takes into consideration the fact that the situation has not becomes so grave as to necessitate a censure motion for removing the Ministers from their offices. The motion simply says that the Minister for Local Administration ought to have taken into consideration the opinion of the Members of the House and put it into action immediately. He has not done so; and to-day we have come to a stage when even if the House were to resolve that elections should be held before June 1953, they cannot be held because there has been sabotaging of the previous resolution. And such steps have been taken as will make the elections impossible of being held even if we resolve to hold them now. And for that position, naturally the responsibility is that of the Ministers especially of the Minister for Local Administration."

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* THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Mr. Speaker. Sir, there has been a certain amount of confusion of the position here. Reference has been made to an alleged resolution of the House and the suggestion has been made that there has been a departure from that resolution and therefore it is considered that there is a breach of Privilege of the House. There was no resolution of the House but an Act was passed and a certain decision was reached statutorily. When an Act is passed by the Legislature nothing can be done by the Government without coming again to the Legislature for a variation of the Statute. No question of breach of Privilege or contempt can arise because the Government cannot disobey it or vary from that position without laying themselves open to proceedings in a court of law. There is no question of that and there is no question of changing it except by coming to the Legislature and getting its agreement for varying it. So, there is no question of Privilege. What is being done is that we come again before the House with a Bill for changing the Act and it is for hon. Members to refer to the previous decision and to the undesirability of changing the decision already reached, when that Bill is under discussion. 9-30 a.m.

" The other view that may be taken is that the Government does not deserve the confidence of the House; if that question is brought up, it is a different matter. I submit, Sir, there is no question of a breach of Privilege here and no need for a discussion of that matter here. The previous decision was on the basis of a certain state of things but the Government think that subsequently a new state of things has arisen and they come with an amending Bill before the House."

* SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point is not about the Government bringing in a new Bill before the House. The point is that the Government are actively sabotaging the working out of the Act in the matter of the holding of the elections before June 1953. The Minister for Local Administration has been carrying on a propaganda that he is not going to hold elections and that he is going to flout the decision of the House. It may be an Act or anything. The question is that the decision is sought to be violated and conditions are being created under which there is no other alternative but to revoke the decision of the Assembly and have a fresh Act and conditions are sedulously and actively being created which undermine the prestige of the House. It may be recalled in this connection that we wanted to hold the elections in December and the will of the House was then expressed that the elections should be held before June."

* THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The hon. Member has misunderstood the position. The House can change its opinion a hundred times."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government are actively working against the particular decision of the Assembly and have sabotaged the decision and the result is that a *fait accompli* has

been presented to the House whereby the elections must be conducted in December or in the Greek Calends. So, Sir, I submit that be it a statute or an Act or a resolution, it is a flouting of the decision of the House and working against it and working against democratic practice. That is my contention, Sir.''

* THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" No argument has been advanced, though the language was vehement and the voice was loud to show, that there has been any breach of Privilege. The hon. Member is fond of sabotage, at any rate the word ' sabotage ', but I do not understand it at all. The hon. Member can condemn the Government in a number of ways if we do anything wrong.''

MR. SPEAKER :—" I may again tell the hon. Member that this is not a Privilege Motion. The resolution before the House has been given notice of by Sri Gopala Menon and it is a non-official resolution. The House is at liberty to change its opinion at any time. I rule that this is not a Privilege Motion.''

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The House would remember that I circulated a note to hon. Members regarding Adjournment Motions and I hope hon. Members would have received it. I wish to tell the House that I want to circulate translations of it in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam for the benefit of hon. Members who are not so conversant with English.''

(1) HUNGER-STRIKE OF SAMI OIL MILLS WORKERS.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri Jeevanandam has given notice of a Motion for the adjournment of the business of the House, which reads—

> ' The House be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the hunger-strike by the workers of the Sami Oil Mills, Madras City, as a result of the conduct of the Labour Commissioner.'

I wish to know from the hon. Member how it is an urgent matter and how it is not a matter concerning the day-to-day administration. It can be seen that it has been there for a long time and the orders of the Commissioner of Labour, if any, must be one passed in the course of the day-to-day administration.''

SRI P. JEEVANANDAM :—" கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, இந்த விஷயம் ரொம்பவும் அவசியமானது, விசேஷமானது. இந்தச் சபை இதை கவனிக்க வேண்டியது அவசியமாகும். இந்த நகரத்தில் 12-ம் தேதியிலிருந்து இருபது நாட்களாக ஒன்பது தொழிலாளர்கள் உண்ணுவிரதம் இருக்கிறார்கள். இந்தச் சபையில் அவர்கள் . . .''

MR. SPEAKER :—" தொழிலாளர்கள் உண்ணுவிரதம் இருப்பதற்கும் இந்த சபையின் நடவடிக்கைக்கும் என்ன சம்பந்தம் என்பது தெரியவில்லையே. இதில் கவர்ன்மெண்டின் தப்பிதம் என்ன இருக்கிறது.''

SRI P. JEEVANANDAM :—" இந்த உண்ணுவிரதத்தை நிறுத்துவது கவர்ன்மெண்டின் பொறுப்பு இல்லையா ? ''

MR. SPEAKER :—" அவர்கள் உண்ணுவிரதம் இருந்தால் கவர்ன்மெண்டு என்ன செய்ய முடியும்.''